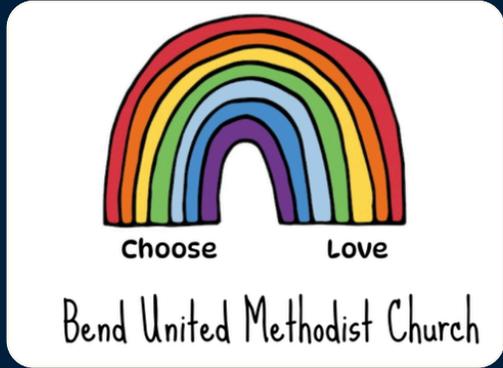


THE CHIMES



Bend United Methodist Church

REV. JEN STUART



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



COUNCIL COMPASS



DISCERNMENT
TEAM TALK



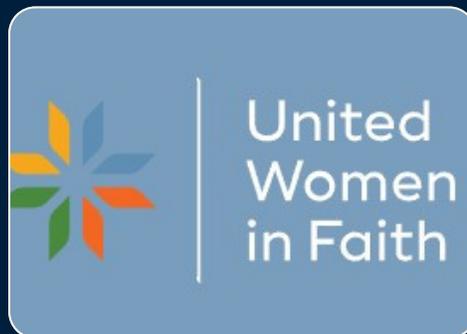
CHILDREN & FAMILY
MINISTRIES



BYC



FINANCIAL CORNER



UWF



MARCH CALENDAR

Word from Rev. Jen Stuart

A New Mission. A Decisive Year. Bend United Methodist Church

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?
- Micah 6:8*

At our February Church Council meeting, we adopted a new mission statement:

**In covenant with God and one another, we are called to build beloved community:
grounded in Christ's love, moved by the Spirit, shaped by justice, and in
partnership with our neighbors.**

This is more than new wording. It is clarity about who we are and where we are headed.

We are living through a significant financial and cultural shift in the church. Younger generations care deeply about justice, community, and spiritual authenticity. But they are also carrying unprecedented student debt, housing costs, and economic instability. They simply cannot support church institutions financially in the same way previous generations did.

That reality is not a criticism. It is a fact.

If we continue operating as though nothing has changed, we will slowly increase pressure on a shrinking base of givers while relying on reserves that were never meant to sustain us indefinitely. That is neither sustainable nor faithful stewardship.

By the end of this year, we must identify a long-term strategy that allows us to do ministry without placing undue burden on our members.

To get there, we will:

- Complete a Building Reserve Study to understand the true long-term cost of our facility.
- Continue exploring partnerships with other churches/organizations and structural options.
- Host monthly potlucks so the congregation remains fully engaged in discernment.
- Work toward an average in-person worship attendance of 110.
- Commit to a clear structural direction before year's end.

This is adaptive work. It requires honesty and shared responsibility. And here is our collective ask: Most people attend church because someone personally invites them. Not because of advertising but because of relationship. If we are serious about growing our attendance, it will happen because we invite. **Invite a friend. Invite a neighbor. Invite someone who has been spiritually curious.**

At the same time, stay engaged. Come to the potlucks. Ask questions. Pray for wisdom. We need people outside of the current church leadership to help us explore our options. All of you are invited. This is not leadership deciding in isolation. This is all of us shaping what comes next.

We are not preserving a building.

We are aligning our structure with our calling.

We are called to build beloved community.

This is a decisive year. Let's move forward together.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Jen Stuart



● Holy Week Schedule ●

Holy Week schedule with Trinity Episcopal and Nativity Lutheran:

Holy Monday - March 30th, 6 PM

Trinity Episcopal: Stations of the Cross (outside or in Trinity, weather depending)

Holy Tuesday - March 31st, 6 PM

Trinity Episcopal: Stations of the Cross around the Labyrinth in St. Helens Hall

Holy Wednesday - April 1st, 6 PM

Trinity Episcopal: Healing Service on the Labyrinth in St Helens Hall

Nativity Lutheran: Communion class with little ones

(making bread from grains, juice from grapes) please RSVP to Nativity Lutheran

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

6 PM at Bend UMC: Maundy Thursday Service with Foot-washing and Holy Communion

6:15 PM at Nativity Lutheran: Maundy Thursday with foot washing & Holy Supper

Good Friday - April 3rd

Trinity Episcopal: Noon & 6 PM - Proper Liturgy for Good Friday

Nativity Lutheran: 6:15 PM - Good Friday Service of Shadows & procession of the cross

Holy Saturday, April 4th

**Trinity Episcopal: 8 PM - The Great Easter Vigil followed by Chocolate, Cheese,
Cider & Champagne Celebration**





Council Compass



A Simple, Smart Way to Support Bend Church

As the Council plans for the coming year and into the future, we want to share an easy and tax-wise way to support our ministry: **gifts of stock or Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)**.

If you own appreciated stock, donating shares directly to the church can allow you to avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a charitable deduction for the full market value. That means more of your gift goes to ministry rather than to taxes. Yay! And, it is often more efficient than selling stock and donating cash.

If you are age 70½ or older, you may also make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** directly from your IRA. These gifts can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution while reducing your taxable income. For some donors, this is one of the most beneficial ways to give.

We partner with the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Foundation to process these gifts securely and efficiently. They make the process straightforward and will work directly with your financial advisor if needed.

You can learn more here: <https://www.faith.foundation/stock-gifts>

Here is a link to a short video about IRA giving: <https://vimeo.com/1081546286?fl=ip&fe=ec>

And here is the one about stock gifts: <https://vimeo.com/1105655125?fl=ip&fe=ec>

This is not about pressure. It is about stewardship—using the tools available to us wisely. If you have been considering a special gift, a pre-tax distribution, or a way to support Bend Church's mission in a tax-efficient way, this may be worth exploring.

As always, please consult your financial advisor to determine what is best for your situation.

Faithfully yours,
Kristin Gonzalez - Council Chair





Discernment Team Talk



Discernment Team Update – February Potluck

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the February 15 potluck. Nearly 60 people gathered to share a meal, hear updates from the Discernment Team, and offer feedback on a newly drafted mission statement. The meeting was marked by thoughtful conversation, honest questions, and deep care for our church's future.

During the meeting, the team presented the major themes that emerged from our January potluck discussion session and explained how those insights shaped the proposed mission statement. Many participants affirmed the emphasis of the statement on being moved by the Spirit, shaped by social justice, and committed to building beloved community. These phrases were widely seen as capturing the heart of who we are.

The discussion extended to hopes and concerns for the future. Strong support was expressed for continuing our outreach ministries, especially work with the unhoused community, and for remaining a welcoming, social justice-oriented congregation. Concerns about financial sustainability, building decisions, and long-term growth were also voiced.

Overall, the sentiment was one of realism but also hope for the future. There is broad agreement that change is necessary, but that it must be Spirit-led, thoughtful, and grounded in our mission. The Discernment Team is grateful for the honesty, care, and depth of engagement shown by those who attended. We will refine the mission statement based on your feedback and continue identifying priorities for the next phase of this work.

Thank you for your engagement and for walking this path with us.

Peace,
Kristin



Children & Family Ministries

★ Volunteers Needed – Children & Family Ministries ★

Do you have a heart for kids? We're looking for caring, faithful volunteers to help invest in the next generation!

We are seeking individuals willing to make a **weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly commitment to teach a short 10-minute lesson immediately following Sunday service.** This is a simple but powerful opportunity to pour into the lives of our children and help them grow in their faith.

You don't have to be a Bible scholar – just someone willing to show up, love our kids, and share God's truth in a meaningful way. Curriculum and support will be provided.

If you feel called to serve or would like more information, please contact Brent Tyler (brent@bendumc.org) or speak with him after service.

Let's build strong foundations of faith together!

For the safety of our children, all volunteers are required to complete a background check prior to serving.





Bend Youth Collective



Dear Incredible Partner Congregations,

It has been an honor to continue getting to know your youth, listening to their questions, celebrating their leadership, and showing up for who they are becoming. We are thankful for your congregation's ongoing support and collaboration.

Bend Youth Collective Gatherings:

Since our last clergy meeting, BYC has hosted seven gatherings that center youth leadership, creativity, and intergenerational connection. Highlights include supporting a youth in reaching a major milestone by hosting a piano concert featuring his original album, as well as an intergenerational gathering that created a safe and thoughtful space for youth and adults to engage in conversations about faith and values. Additional gatherings have included spooky campfire stories with a local storyteller, interactive games, and a holiday-themed gingerbread house night. Together, these experiences continue to foster belonging, confidence, and meaningful connection.

Youth Finding Their Own Voice:

Alongside our gatherings, BYC has invited youth for opportunities for community engagement and leadership. Youth and community members came together for a multigenerational gathering that blended relationship-building with action, including decorating sugar cookies while learning and organizing together around protecting the environment and relief for wildfire disasters. We have also had thoughtful discussions with youth about their spiritual values, justice commitments, and how they walk with those values in the world, with some coming to an Advocacy Day later this month. These spaces invite youth to connect faith, community, and collective action in meaningful ways.

Volunteer Base Growth:

BYC has continued to grow its volunteer program through intentional listening and collaboration. By centering the voices of adult volunteers, youth, and concerned parents, particularly around the presence of healthy male influences in community, we were able to adapt our approach and strengthen shared leadership. As a result, a volunteer design team now includes members from four of our six anchor congregations, and the volunteer program has grown from three to eight active participants.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside youth from all of our anchor congregations. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or ideas about how we can continue fostering a strong sense of belonging for our youth.

Sincerely,
Stef Jenkinson

We have our next youth retreat planned for April 17th-19th at Camp Lutherwood. Here is the [registration sheet with all the details!](#) You can view the flyer in the attachments. There are potential scholarships available for the retreat. Contact me for details.

Financial Corner

Year to date - through January 2026

Actual Income \$107,212*
Budgeted Income \$47,172
Total Expenses \$45,344
FYE Net Income. \$60,869



* January Income includes both catch up pledges/donations for 2025 and some quarterly and annual pledges for 2026.

Really appreciate the strong year end giving!
We look to be on track to fully fund apportionments in 2026.



2026 is in full swing for UWF. Circles are meeting. Crafters are meeting twice a month this spring in preparation for the fall bazaar. Plans and dates are set for the big events. We always want to extend the invitation to anyone interested in joining us. You will be welcomed and feel like you have always belonged. UWF is a place where you will make friends and at the same time be able to serve others in so many different ways.

Melanie Cottam
President UWF

Mark you calendars!

Saturday, April 18th - SPRING FLING - Noon - 2:00

Saturday, October 24th - Drop Off for Grandma's Attic 11 am - 2 pm gym door

Thursday, November 5th - Holiday Bazaar Set-Up 11 am - 5 pm

Friday, November 6th - Holiday Bazaar Set-Up 9 am - 5 pm

Saturday, November 7th - HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9 am - 2 pm

Sunday, November 8th - HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9 am - noon

Saturday, December 5th - CHRISTMAS TEA 2-4 pm Fellowship Hall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour ☺ 11:00 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	2 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	3 9:00am - Jazzercise 11:30 All Staff Mtg 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 5pm Understanding Homelessness in CO at Westside Church	4 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	5 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	6 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	7 9:00am - Jazzercise
8 10am Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour ☺ 11:00 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC 	9 9:00 - Jazzercise 10:00 - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	10 9:00am - Jazzercise 11:30am Worship Team 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	11 10am Shalom Circle 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	12 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	13 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	14 9:00am - Jazzercise Poster making in the Fellowship Hall 10am - 12pm 
15 10am Worship  11:30 - Potluck 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	16 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	17 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 	18 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	19 9:00am - Jazzercise 10am Circle of Friends 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	20 9:00am Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	21 9:00am - Jazzercise
22 10am Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour ☺ 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 1pm-3pm Harm Reduction Training 4:00 - 6:30 BYC	23 9:00 - Jazzercise 10:00 - Crafters 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	24 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise	25 10am UWF Board 12pm - Jazzercise 1pm-3pm Open Door: Mail, Free Store, Harm Reduction & Compassionate Care 4pm Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir	26 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise 7pm - 50/50 Bible Study via Zoom	27 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00 - Jazzercise 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail	28 9:00am - Jazzercise
29 10am Worship 11:30 Coffee Hour ☺ 11:30 - Guy Talk 12:00 - The Chosen 4:00 - 6:30 BYC 	30 9:00 - Jazzercise 12pm: Lectionary Study 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail & Free Store 1pm Council Meeting 4:30 - Jazzercise 4:30pm - Bells	31 9:00am - Jazzercise 12:00pm - Yoga 1:00pm - 3:00pm Open Door Mail 4:30pm - Jazzercise				

Please note: Calendar items are church related. There are many more events occurring in the building that are not on this calendar. If you are not scheduled to meet at the church we ask that you respect those using our building by checking in at the office first as you enter the church.